

BOOK REVIEWS



We start the new year by offering you our thoughts about a number of books you might find both interesting and informative. Publishing houses have been most kind in responding to our requests for review copies, and we thank them for their cooperation. Here are just a few of the books we have received in recent months:

• **MONTY: FINAL YEARS OF THE FIELD-MARSHAL, 1944-1976.** By Nigel Hamilton (McGraw-Hill, 1987. 996 Pages. \$29.95). Once again, as he did in the first two volumes of his three-volume biography of Bernard Law Montgomery, the author skews history in a valiant effort to raise his subject's status from that of mere mortal to God-Above-All. Along the way, he savagely pillories almost every senior U.S. military commander in the European theater and dishes out almost equal scorn to many British political and military leaders of the time, (including Winston Churchill).

And all of this is done on behalf of a military commander whose claim to greatness rests on his success in only one battle—Alamein. From that time in October 1942 to the end of the war in Europe in May 1945, Montgomery's actual military record in no way matches the record that he presented to the world in his later writings or that Nigel Hamilton presents in this biography.

Montgomery's conduct of his part of the Allied campaign in Sicily in mid-1943, for example, left much to be desired; his actions in Italy during the last four months of 1943 were even less memorable. The campaign in Normandy in mid-1944 *did not* go according to Montgomery's plan, and his inept handling of the 1st Canadian Army after the breakout, his failure to open the port of Antwerp, and his poorly conceived MARKET-GARDEN operation were not the hallmarks of military greatness. (Hamilton does not devote much space to the last three.)

From 1 September 1944, when he

reverted to army group commander from his former exalted position as Allied ground force commander in northwest Europe, Montgomery ceased to be a team player and for the rest of the war did everything he could to undermine General Dwight Eisenhower's position as supreme Allied commander and to regain the power he had lost.

After the war, Montgomery proved a complete failure as head of the post-war British Army, and was saved from oblivion by the creation of a military element in the Western Union, the forerunner of NATO. Then, in 1951, Montgomery refused Churchill's offer to name him supreme commander in Malaya, at the time a key British command. Although he did not hesitate to tell everyone how the situation in Malaya should be handled, Montgomery pleaded to stay in Europe because "I would be no good whatsoever at dealing with scorpions and snakes."

The author's supporting documentation is drawn largely from Montgomery's own writings, all of which are treated as being the unvarnished truth. All other writings, such as Eisenhower's and Bradley's, he considers less than truthful.

Today's U.S. infantryman is warned, therefore, to handle this book with great care. There is one short, seven-page chapter—Chapter Four, Part Five—in which the author lets his guard down and permits a British officer to give a nod to the U.S. effort during the Battle of the Bulge. For these few pages, then, we should be grateful.

• **VERY SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP: FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN DILL AND THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE, 1941-44.** By Alex Danchev (Brassey's-Pergamon, 1987. 201 Pages.

\$26.00). There were few, if any, similarities between Bernard Montgomery and John Dill, the subject of this book and the man who headed the British Joint Staff Mission in the United States during World War II and who served concurrently as the senior British member of the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee. Dill served in those positions from January 1942 until his death in Washington in November 1944.

He was highly regarded by the members of the U.S. high command and became a close personal friend of George Marshall. The author says that to the Americans, Dill's "contribution to the combined British American war effort" was of outstanding importance and "no other individual was more responsible for the achievement of complete co-operation in the work of the Combined Chiefs of Staff." So much was he liked in Washington that he was paid a most singular honor on his death—a full-scale military funeral followed by burial in Arlington National Cemetery. (In 1950, an equestrian statue, commissioned by his "American friends and associates," was erected at his grave site.)

This well done book, written by a serving officer of the Royal Army Educational Corps in the British Army, explains why Dill was revered by the Americans—and why he was far less honored in Britain. He writes: "To say that Dill was not without honour, save in his own country, would be something of an exaggeration, but not much of one." Dill's own wartime head of government, Winston Churchill, who had given him so much grief during the early war years, ignored his death and his invaluable contributions to the Allied cause.

This is a fine book about what was, indeed, a very special relationship.

• **SOVIET GROUND FORCES: AN OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT,** by John Erickson, Lynn Hansen, and William Schneider (Westview, 1986. 267 Pages. \$26.00). The three authors

NOTE TO READERS: All of the books mentioned in this review section may be purchased directly from the publisher or from your nearest book dealer. We do not sell books. We will furnish a publisher's address on request.

of this book are eminently qualified to write about the Soviet military establishment. In their book, historian John Erickson traces the evolution of the Soviet ground forces from 1941 to 1985; retired U.S. Army colonel William Schneider tells how the Soviet Army trains for war, how it would actually fight a war, and how it makes use of "norms," which cover all material requirements—financial, supply, exploitation, expenditure—for military personnel, units, and formations in both peace and war; and historian Lynn Hansen analyzes the Soviet Air Force and its special relationship with the combined arms doctrine practiced by all Soviet military forces.

The authors conclude that from the Soviet viewpoint "combined arms is the king of the battlefield" and believe that "the Soviet Union has come closer to creating a combined arms outlook among its forces than any other country." They also note that the Soviets believe strongly in the concept roughly translated as the "daring thrust"—a thrust through weak points in an opposing force's defensive lines to seize "critical nodes that can cause the enemy's rapid collapse."

Although the Soviet ground forces are learning a number of painful lessons in Afghanistan, they remain a most formidable force. This book tells us why this is so and what we can expect of it in the future.

• **SOVIET AIRLAND BATTLE TACTICS**, by William Baxter (Presidio, 1986. 269 Pages. \$18.95). The author is a retired U.S. Army officer who now works as a research analyst in Soviet affairs. While on active duty, he was a Soviet foreign area officer. Not many years ago he published a series of articles in *ARMY* magazine on Soviet military doctrine, tactics, organization, and technology.

In this book, which nicely complements the one mentioned above, he expands on the thoughts he expressed in his magazine series with the aim of describing "how the Soviet Army thinks about itself, and how it intends to perform on the battlefield." He does not discuss "norms" as such, but in a chapter titled "problem solving in military affairs," he explains the Soviet perception of science and the Soviet use of science

to determine the specifics of combat.

The author pulls together a mass of material, organizes it well, and presents it in a most agreeable manner. He believes that "the Soviet Army does many things very well, but some things not so well" and that, overall, it is "a formidable and very professional fighting machine." In that, he agrees with Erickson, Schneider, and Hansen.

• **RED GOD OF WAR: SOVIET ARTILLERY AND ROCKET FORCES**, by Chris Bellamy (Brassey's, 1986. 247 Pages. \$33.75). There seems little question that the Soviet Army has a deep and abiding faith in its artillery arm—formally known as Rocket Forces and Artillery—a faith that has been nurtured for more than 500 years.

In this book, the author (who is a British writer with considerable interest in Russian history, literature, and culture) traces the development of Soviet artillery from its earliest days to the present. Along the way, he uses selected examples from Russian wars to develop what he calls the "tradition of excellence." He also furnishes brief biographical sketches of former artillery commanders who played important roles in the development of the artillery and rocket forces, discusses the newer active systems, and explains how the Soviet Army plans to use its artillery in a future war.

He feels that the Soviets will continue to "place great emphasis on this arm, more so than in the West" although there appears to be a definite lack of cooperation between the artillery force and the other combat arms. Recent Soviet military publications contain numerous references to this problem, caused partly by the artillery's technocratic tradition, and offer solutions to it.

This is an excellent study of the Soviet "god of war." All U.S. infantrymen should become familiar with it.

• **SOLDIER-STATESMEN OF THE CONSTITUTION**, by Robert K. Wright, Jr., and Morris J. McGregor, Jr. (U.S. Army Center of Military History, 1987. 298 Pages. USGPO S/N 008-029-00153-5. \$24.00). This book, written by two of the Center's historians, represents the Center's major contribution to the bicentennial celebration of the Constitution. Twenty-three of the 40 men who signed

the Constitution on 17 September 1787 (22 of them as delegates and the 23d as the secretary who authenticated the document) were Revolutionary War veterans. A chapter is devoted to each of the 23, explaining the role each played in the war and in the Constitutional Convention. (Shorter sections are devoted to the other 17 delegate signers.)

The book is divided into six parts: a general narrative survey of the constitutional era; the biographical studies of the 23 veterans; summaries of the careers of the other signers; a selection of documents that outline the formation of the U.S. military establishment; five appendices; and a section devoted to selected further readings. Numerous color illustrations nicely complement the narrative portions while the book's internal layout is most attractive.

No U.S. infantryman interested in the history of our country should pass this book by; it is an invaluable reference tool.

• **JANE'S AFV RECOGNITION HANDBOOK**, by Christopher F. Foss (Jane's, 1987. 554 Pages. \$18.00, Soft-bound.) Put together by the editor of the much larger *Jane's Armour and Artillery* yearbook, this publication in its somewhat unusual dimensions—7½" x 5"—has been designed to help a user identify quickly and accurately almost any modern armored fighting vehicle (AFV) in service today anywhere in the world, and to give him certain key information on each of the vehicles. A separate section is used to explain how an individual can develop his AFV recognition skills.

Infantrymen will find this book most useful as a reference tool, because each entry contains a vehicle's full technical specifications, key recognition features, development notes, variants, current status and list of users, manufacturer, and for most of the entries a side-view drawing and three photographs.

• **WAR ON FILM, MILITARY HISTORY EDUCATION: VIDEO TAPES, MOTION PICTURES, AND RELATED AUDIOVISUAL AIDS**, compiled by Major Frederick A. Fiserman (Historical Bibliography Number 6, Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 1987. 274 Pages, Soft-bound.) Here is another excellent ref-

erence tool for the infantryman. Although it was designed to assist instructors within the TRADOC Military History Education Program, it can be equally useful to any student of U.S. military history.

The publication is made up of a listing of selected, unclassified government and commercially produced audiovisual items, all of which have been grouped into 10 broad categories. It concludes with a title index.

The compiler is assigned to the Combat Studies Institute and formerly served as editor of *Army Trainer* magazine.

Here are a number of our longer reviews:

ROOSEVELT, DE GAULLE, AND THE POSTS: FRANCO-AMERICAN WAR RELATIONS VIEWED THROUGH THEIR EFFECTS ON THE FRENCH POSTAL SYSTEM, 1941-1944, by D.M. Giangreco (J.V. Bush, Inc., Box 626, Bonita, CA 92002. 1987. 171 Pages. \$9.95, Soft-bound).

Yes, this book is about stamps, certain kinds of stamps. And yes, this book can be considered good postal history. But more importantly it is about wartime civil affairs activities and the part those activities played in the successful Allied prosecution of World War II in French North Africa and in France itself.

Most frontline infantrymen care little about civil affairs or military government activities. They assume that food, supplies, and mail will be delivered to them on a fairly regular basis and have been known to complain quite loudly when this does not happen. They really don't care about the problems the supporting players may be having dozens or even hundreds of miles to the rear.

Unfortunately, unless the civil affairs people can solve the problems they face, the infantryman will eventually suffer. This book is about one of those problems civil affairs units faced during World War II—the continued operation of the French postal system both in French North Africa and in the occupied areas of France between November 1942 and late October 1944.

The author, who is an editor for the *Military Review* at Fort Leavenworth and a specialist in Allied postal operations in

Europe during World War II, explains why solving that problem was so important to the Allied cause—and to France—and how it was accomplished. The accomplishment was made far more difficult than it should have been because of French sensitivities and the machinations of various French political groups.

His book throws new light on some of the problems that can be encountered during the conduct of coalition warfare. For that alone it is worth an infantryman's reading.

THE SOVIET ARMY: 1918 TO THE PRESENT. By Albert and Joan Seaton (New American Library, 1986. 292 Pages. \$19.95).

SOVIET MILITARY POLICY SINCE WORLD WAR II. By William T. Lee and Richard F. Staar (Hoover Institution Press, 1986. 263 Pages. \$21.95). Both books reviewed by Major Don Rightmyer, United States Air Force.

These two books on the history of the Soviet Army since 1918 and Soviet military doctrine and policy since 1945 complement each other nicely in the subject matter they cover and the qualifications of the respective authors.

Albert Seaton is a noted British military historian who has written similar books on the German Army during World War II. In this volume he and his collaborator, Joan Seaton, provide a concise summary of the Soviet Army's development and employment since 1918 with an important first chapter on the Tsarist heritage, which provides an important link between the extensive Russian past and all that has transpired during this century.

The book provides excellent coverage for the general reader, but the more specialized reader will find a lot of already familiar material. An excellent bibliography does point the way for further reading on the subject, and the appendix on current Soviet military hardware can serve as a handy desk reference.

The book by William Lee and Richard Staar fits in well with the Seaton volume. The authors provide a detailed look at the development of the Soviet armed forces after World War II and the corresponding development of nuclear doctrine,

strategy, and hardware. They offer several chapters on Soviet defense programs during the past 30 years and the nuclear weapon systems built by the Soviets to achieve their objectives during those years.

Their book is well suited for both general and specialized readers. Unfortunately, it should more correctly have been titled "Nuclear Policy" because there is little discussion of the evolution of conventional doctrine and the renewed emphasis on those forces in current years.

THE GREAT WAR IN AFRICA, 1914-1918. By Byron Farwell (Norton, 1986. 382 Pages. \$18.95). Reviewed by Captain Harold E. Raugh, Jr., United States Army.

The image most people have of World War I is of the bloody stalemate in France. Names like Flanders, Vimy, Passchendaele, and the Somme immediately come to mind. Few people, though, have heard of Douala, Longido, Morogoro, or Tabora—all battles fought against the Germans in Africa.

Overshadowed by the war in Europe, the campaigns in Germany's four African colonies—Togoland, the Cameroons, German Southwest Africa, and German East Africa—were considered little more than sideshows. As a result, they are little known and generally neglected by most military historians. They were, however, characterized by mobility, gallantry, and human endurance, and were fought over great differences in terrain and climate.

The well-known historian Byron Farwell has done an excellent job chronicling the four campaigns and placing them within the context of the war as a whole. He has made superb use of official histories as well as personal reminiscences, letters, and journal extracts of participants. The latter not only add local color and realism but also give the perceptions of the soldiers who lived, fought, and died in the disease-ridden, humid, and hot jungles.

Farwell's narrative is highly readable and its continuity is outstanding. He covers all aspects of the campaigns—ground, naval, and air—in rich detail.

The unparalleled saga of the German Colonel von Lettow-Vorbeck and his *Schutztruppe* is a story of indefatigable and imaginative leadership, indomitable morale and courage, and superhuman endurance. Indeed, his was the only German force during the entire war that was never soundly defeated, and it surrendered only after learning that the Armistice had been signed.

There are more than 30 interesting photographs in the book and four maps that enable a reader to easily follow the progress of the campaigns. Apparently oriented toward the general reader, the book has only an eight-page "select bibliography." A reader who wants to know more about the specific sources of the illuminating quotes and other details will be disappointed by the lack of footnotes.

There are a number of spelling errors in the book, although these do not detract from its readability and effectiveness. Overall, this well written and readable book ably fills a conspicuous void in the literature of World War I. It is well worth the price and cannot be recommended too highly.

THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN ARMY. By Keith Simpson (Bison Books, 1987. 314 Pages. \$18.95). Reviewed by Major Edwin L. Kennedy, Jr., United States Army.

This is a most interesting and well-researched book. It should probably be called "The History of the German Armies" because, as the author explains, the German military heritage is long but largely fragmented. The different German state armies are shown to be as diverse as the history of Germany itself.

Keith Simpson does an excellent job of describing how the stereotyped German soldier has evolved, and he includes many interesting facts about the equipping and training of the German soldiers themselves. His book is not encumbered by a mass of political-military details, but it does stress the major points of relationship between the two. He gives an excellent balance to his treatment of the German armies in different major eras and, unlike many contemporary publications, reminds his readers that a German

Army did exist before the Third Reich.

Although this book is not meant to be a complete reference, it does provide an excellent history of the German military heritage.

THE MILITARY BALANCE, 1987-1988. By the International Institute for Strategic Studies (London, 1987. 240 Pages. \$27.00, Softbound).

As usual, this world-renowned and authoritative publication provides a comprehensive look at the world's military forces and the defense expenditures of more than 140 countries. This new edition, however, incorporates a number of new features: a loose insert map that shows, on one side, short-range nuclear missile and theater strike aircraft coverage of European territory, and on its other side, NATO and Warsaw Pact command and control structures. Too, the table that has been used each year to compare NATO and Warsaw Pact conventional force levels has been revised to take a broader geographic approach to include forces in areas that may be considered in future arms control talks between the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

Once again, military hostilities are discussed on an area-by-area basis, and the Institute does not expect that any of the hostilities will end in the near future. It does, though, have some hope that the Arias Plan may bring about some reconciliation and democratization in the Central American region.

As we have said in years past, there is no better work of its kind on the market today.

RECENT AND RECOMMENDED

THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE VIETNAM WAR: RIVERINE FORCE. By John Forbes and Robert Williams. Bantam Books, 1987. 158 Pages. \$6.95, Softbound.

A COLLECTOR'S GUIDE TO THIRD REICH MILITARIA. By Robin Lumsden. Hippocrene Books, 1987. 192 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

BATTLEFIELD ARCHAEOLOGY. By John Laffin. Hippocrene Books, 1988. 128 Pages. \$22.50.

HEADHUNTERS: STORIES FROM THE 1st SQUADRON, 9th CAVALRY, IN VIETNAM, 1965-1971. Edited by Matthew Brennan. Presidio, 1987. 306 Pages. \$18.95.

SURVIVAL ON THE BATTLEFIELD: A

HANDBOOK TO MILITARY MARTIAL ARTS. By Robert K. Spear. Unique Publications (4201 Vanowen Place, Burbank, CA 91505), 1987. 185 Pages. \$10.95, Softbound.

THE DIVIDED UNION: THE STORY OF THE GREAT AMERICAN WAR, 1861-1865. By Peter Batty and Peter Parrish. Salem House, 1987. 224 Pages. \$24.95.

FIGHTING TROOPS OF THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY, 1868-1914. By James Lucas. Hippocrene Books, 1988. 288 Pages. \$50.00.

WESTERN EUROPE IN SOVIET GLOBAL STRATEGY. Edited by Ray S. Cline, James A. Miller, and Roger E. Kanet. Westview Press, 1987. 166 Pages. \$16.95, Softbound.

A11-1. By Doug Richardson. Modern Fighting Aircraft, Volume 13. Arco, 1987. 64 Pages. \$12.95.

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO TANK BUSTERS. By Mike Spick and Bruce Quarry. Arco, 1987. 153 Pages. \$10.95.

AN ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO MODERN FIGHTERS AND ATTACK AIRCRAFT. By Bill Gunston. Arco, 1987. 151 Pages. \$10.95.

THE U.S. MARINE CORPS STORY. Revised and Updated by J. Robert Moskin. McGraw-Hill, 1987. 849 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT—A RESOURCE GUIDE. Prepared by Lieutenant Colonel David R. Kiernan, Chief of Public Affairs, XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg. Softbound, 44 Pages. Free on request to author.

THE ROAD TO TRINITY: A PERSONAL ACCOUNT OF HOW AMERICA'S NUCLEAR POLICIES WERE MADE. By Major General K.D. Nichols, United States Army Retired. William Morrow, 1987. 401 Pages. \$19.95.

BLACK SAILORS: AFRICAN-AMERICAN MERCHANT SEAMEN AND WHALEMEN PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR. By Martha S. Putney. Greenwood Press, 1987. 173 Pages. \$29.95.

MEMORIES. By Master Sergeant David H. Puckett, United States Army Retired. Vantage Press, 1987. 145 Pages. \$10.95.

LONG-RANGE PATROL OPERATIONS: RECONNAISSANCE, COMBAT, AND SPECIAL OPERATIONS. By Master Sergeant James W. England, United States Army Retired. Paladin Press, 1987. 336 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

SPECIAL FORCES FOREIGN WEAPONS HANDBOOK. By Sergeant Major Frank A. Moyer. Citadel Press, 1987. 326 Pages. \$14.95, Softbound.

ASSAULT PISTOLS, RIFLES, AND SUBMACHINE GUNS. By Duncan Long. Citadel Press, 1987. 142 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

COMBAT AMMUNITION: EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW. By Duncan Long. Citadel Press, 1987. 127 Pages. \$12.95, Softbound.

THE ANATOMY OF COURAGE. By Lord Moran. A Reprint in the Publisher's *Art of Command Series*. First published in 1945. Avery Publishing Group, 1987. 224 Pages. \$9.95, Softbound.

